

Message Text

PAGE 01 LUXEMB 00784 161117Z

12
ACTION SS-30

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P R 161015Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3642
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION EC BURSELS UNN

S E C R E T LUXEMBOURG 0784

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EC, LU
SUBJ: GOL REACTION TO CONSULTATION ISSUES IN US/EC DECLARATION
REF: COPENHAGEN 2864

1. ON NOVEMBER 15 MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR TOLD US THAT THE EC WAS "SERIOUSLY SPLIT" ON THE PRINCIPLE OF REFERRING TO CLOSE US-EC CONSULTATION ON ECONOMIC MATTERS IN THE JOINT DECLARATION. THE FRENCH, WHO LEAD THE OPPOSITION TO CLOSE US-EC CONSULTATION, NOW USE THE ARGUMENT THAT THE USG IS HAMSTRUNG BY CONGRESS ON ALL IMPORTANT FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES, WHICH MEANS THAT ADVANCE COMMITMENTS FROM THE USG WOULD BE OF LITTLE VALUE TO THE EC. WE COUNTERED THIS ARGUMENT WITH REFERENCES TO THE CONSIDERABLE POWER THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH CONTINUES TO EXERCISE IN FOREIGN ECONOMIC MATTERS. WE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT ADVANCE CONSULTATION ONLY MEANS TAKING ANOTHER'S VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT AND IS NOT A BINDING COMMITMENT TO A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT. WURTH SAID HE APPRECIATED OUR VIEWS BUT HE HELD OUT LITTLE
SECRET

PAGE 02 LUXEMB 00784 161117Z

HOPE THAT THE EC WOULD AGREE TO EITHER THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OR WRITTEN MENTION OF ADVANCE CONSULTATION. THE EC IS ALREADY PLAGUED WITH CUMBERSOME BUREAUCRACY INVOLVING THE NINE GOVERNMENTS, THE COMMISSION AND (ONE DAY) THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT.

THESE INSTITUTIONS HAVE BROUGHT THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS TO A VIRTUAL STANDSTILL AND THERE IS LITTLE SENTIMENT FAVORING ANOTHER LAYER OF FORMAL CONSULTATION BEFORE THE EC CAN IMPLEMENT DECISIONS.

2. THIS SAID, WURTH OBSERVED THAT WHETHER "FORMAL OR ADVANCE" CONSULTATION IS MENTIONED OR NOT IN THE JOINT US-EC DECLARATION, MOST OF THE NINE KEENLY REALIZE THAT CLOSE CONTACT ON ECONOMIC MATTERS BETWEEN THE EC AND US IS ABSOLUTELY INDISPENSABLE. WURTH SUGGESTED THAT THE US INITIATE CONSULTATION ON IMPORTANT AND URGENT ECONOMIC MATTERS IN EACH EC CAPITAL, AND THEN RECEIVE THE EC REACTION FROM THE EC PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES IN BRUSSELS. HE SAID THAT THIS SEQUENCE WAS THE FASTEST WAY TO GET A COHERENT REACTION FROM THE NINE AS A WHOLE.

3. WURTH OBSERVED THAT HE TOO WAS WORRIED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE BREAKDOWN IN US-EC CONSULTATION BECAUSE WE LACK AN AGREED MECHANISM TO DO THIS EXPEDITIOUSLY. HE OFFERED TO DISCUSS THIS PROBLEM WITH FOREIGN MINISTER THORN AND EC PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE DONDELINGER AND THEN CONVEY TO US ANY IDEAS OR OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE GOL BELIEVES MIGHT HELP RESOLVE THIS PRACTICAL PROBLEM. FARKAS

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